



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

July 16, 2008

**H.R. 6309**  
**Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act of 2008**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Financial Services  
on June 24, 2008*

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 6309 would cost \$21 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 600 (income security). The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 6309 is shown in the following table.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2009- 2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Estimated Authorization Level	5	5	4	4	4	22
Estimated Outlays	4	5	4	4	4	21

H.R. 6309 would set the environmental intervention blood lead level (EIBLL) for a confirmed concentration of lead in a child under six years of age equal to or greater than 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter. (Currently a child is considered to have an EIBLL if a single blood test measures at least 20 micrograms of lead per deciliter or two consecutive tests measure 15-19 micrograms of lead per deciliter.)

Under current law, public housing authorities (PHAs) must conduct risk assessments of residences when children residing in federally supported housing are identified as having an EIBLL. Based on data from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CBO estimates that under H.R. 6309 the number of public housing and voucher-assisted households with children designated as having an EIBLL would increase by an average of 1,200 a year over the 2009-2013 period. Based on data from HUD, CBO estimates the average cost of conducting a risk assessment

per additional household would be \$800. Thus, CBO estimates that conducting the risk assessments would cost approximately \$1 million a year over the 2009-2013 period.

If the risk assessment identifies lead hazards in the home, landlords must put in place interim controls to mitigate those hazards, such as dust removal and repainting. PHAs are responsible for the cost of the interim controls if lead hazards are identified in public housing, and those costs are subsidized by HUD. Private landlords are responsible for the cost of the interim controls for lead hazards identified in units subsidized with rental vouchers.

Based on information from HUD, CBO estimates that 75 percent of risk assessments find lead hazards in the home and the average cost of implementing interim controls would be \$12,000 in 2009. Based on data from HUD and CDC, CBO estimates that an additional 300 public housing households per year would need to use interim controls. Thus, CBO estimates that applying interim controls would cost \$16 million over the 2009-2013 period.

H.R. 6309 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any costs to private landlords participating in the federal voucher program would be incurred voluntarily.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Alexis Miller and Chad Chirico. This estimate was approved by Keith Fontenot, Deputy Assistant Director for Health and Human Resources, Budget Analysis Division.